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The Medals of Benjamin Rush, Obstetrician.

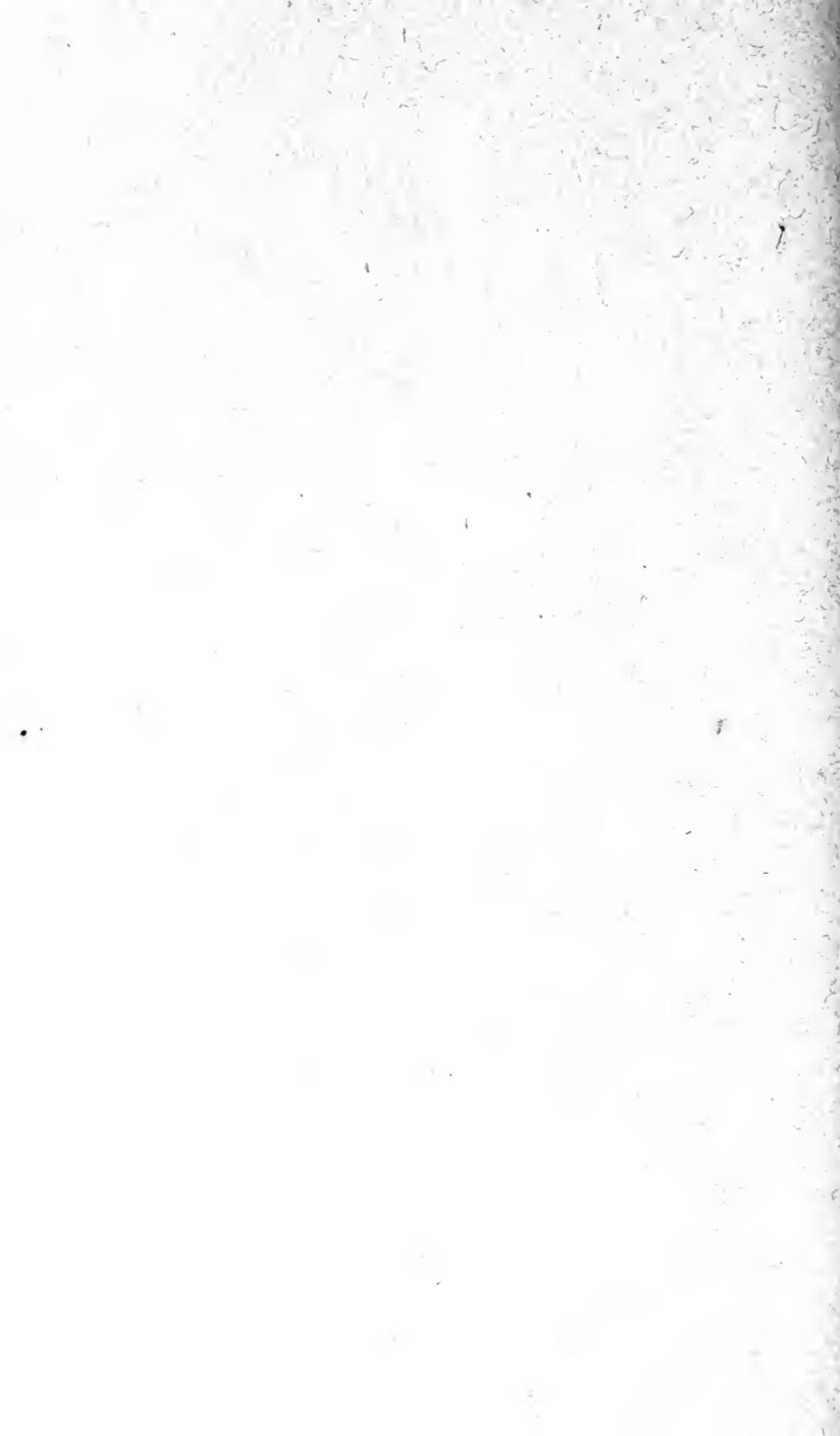
BY
HORATIO R. STORER, M.D.,
OF NEWPORT, R. I.



Read at the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, held at Newport, R. I., June, 1889.

Reprinted from the "Journal of the American Medical Association," September 7, 1889.

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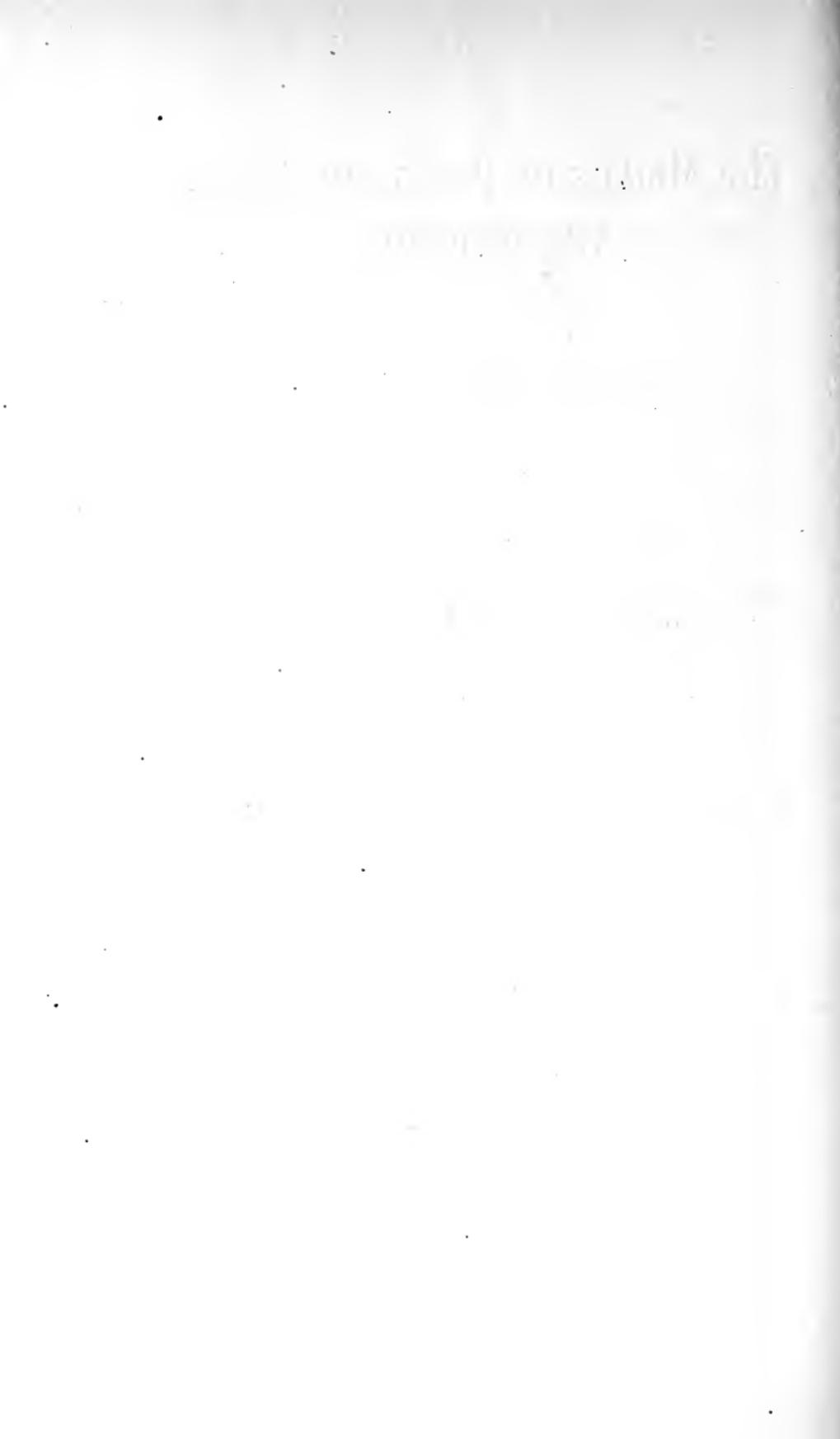
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THE MEDALS OF BENJAMIN RUSH, OBSTETRICIAN.

Recently, during researches relative to a paper upon the medals, jetons and tokens illustrative of the science of medicine, at present appearing in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, I learned of a gold medal conferred by the Society of Medicine of Caen, France, upon the late Dr. Jean Charles Faget, of New Orleans, a graduate of the University of Paris, Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, and distinguished as an author in various departments of medicine.¹ With the impressions of this medal that have been kindly sent me by Dr. Faget's family, I have received copies of a portion of his works. Among them is an interesting brochure, published at Paris by the Baillières, entitled, "L'Art d'apaiser les Douleurs de L'Enfancement" (The Means of Assuaging the Agony of Parturition).

THE CLAIM OF RUSH TO THE TITLE OF OBSTETRICIAN.

In this memoir, Dr. Faget quotes a striking statement by the most eminent, perhaps, of American physicians, Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, for many years professor of the institutes and practice of medicine and of clinical practice in the University of Pennsylvania. In discussing the symptoms of labor, and as if directly anticipating and answering in advance the objections that were to be urged half a century later in his own city, by the celebrated Dr. Charles D. Meigs, Dr. Rush had said: "By some divines these symptoms, and particularly pain, have been con-

sidered as a standing and unchangeable punishment of the original disobedience of woman, and, by some physicians, as indispensably necessary to enable the uterus to relieve itself of its burden. By contemplating the numerous instances in which it has pleased God to bless the labors and ingenuity of man, in lessening or destroying the effects of the curse inflicted upon the earth, and by attending to the histories of the total exemption from pain in child-bearing that are recorded of the women in the Brazils, Calabria, and some parts of Africa, and of the small degrees of it which are felt by the Turkish women, who reduce their systems by frequent purges of sweet oil during pregnancy, I was induced to believe pain does not accompany child-bearing by an immutable decree of Heaven." And again: "I was encouraged (in this) by having known delivery to take place, in one instance, during a paroxysm of epilepsy, and in another during a fit of drunkenness; in both of which there was neither consciousness nor recollection of pain."²

The notable passage referred to above as reproduced by Dr. Faget, in his French monograph, is the following: "I have expressed a hope in another place that a medicine would be discovered that should suspend sensibility altogether, and leave irritability, or the power of motion, unimpaired, and thereby destroy labour pains altogether."³

The "another place" to which Rush here makes allusion is a letter dated May 12, 1802, to Dr. Edward Miller, entitled "On the means of lessening the pains and dangers of child-bearing, and of preventing its consequent diseases." In this, when speaking of cases "where the absence of throes and the slow progress of delivery indicate a deficiency of muscular irritability in the

fibres of the uterus," Dr. Rush shows the advantage of opium, and goes on to say, "I think I have seen the happiest effects from that excellent medicine in such cases, in destroying useless pains and shortening the progress of the labor. How far a medicine (if such can be found) so powerful as wholly to suspend the sensibilities of the nerves, without impairing their irritability, might succeed in destroying pain altogether, I know not."⁴

In this letter, aside from the special point that I make in the present paper, Dr. Rush demonstrates, throughout, that he was a skilful obstetrician. In its very title, he closely associates the pains of labor with its dangers, he announces that they can both be lessened, he recognizes that they are the potent cause of subsequent disease, and he teaches its prevention. Here, as in the passage quoted by Dr. Faget, Dr. Rush foreshadows the great discovery which has taken from parturition its anguish, without interfering with its progressive natural action, and has greatly lessened its perils to mother and child.

Upon referring to the work of Walter Channing, of Boston—a native, by the way, of Newport, and upon this occasion to be spoken of with especial honor—to whom, as also to Sir James Y. Simpson, as the first physician to induce artificial anæsthesia in childbirth, Dr. Faget gives due credit, I find this comment: "It is grateful to recur to the opinions of our distinguished countryman (Dr. Rush) on a point which he approached with sentiments of the profoundest reverence, on account of the authority on which it is supposed to rest, whilst he successfully controverted the popular inference, namely: the penal character, involving a physical necessity of pain in labor." He had conceived "a hope. Was it not prophecy? Had it not so much of truth as a basis,

that the great discovery of our own day seems to be the revelation of that truth? His doctrines were rather inductions, or the generalizations of facts, than theories." He "expresses 'a hope' of the discovery of a remedy of (obstetric) pain," but he also states "the reasonableness, the moral evidence, of that hope, so that it becomes faith."⁶

It will be noticed that Rush distinctly contemplated the removal of sensibility alone, and the retention of uterine activity. His views therefore were precisely those of the best authorities of the present day, regarding the conduct of natural labor. He was in general sympathy with Sydenham, whose works he edited, and for whom he even named his country seat, and it is not unlikely that through studying upon this account the more closely the effects in labor of opium, his opinion of which I have already quoted—and that preparation of it which is known as Sydenham's to the present day—he came to perceive the end that was to be searched for in childbirth beyond merely soothing its pain, namely: the preservation unimpaired of uterine contractility and expulsive power. Dr. Rush, besides, was far in advance of his time in recognizing the evil effects of alcohol upon the human system, both in health and disease. One of the cases which he reports was of painless labor "during a fit of drunkenness." This would have added to his desire to produce the effect, temporary anodynia, while avoiding its disreputable and injurious cause.⁶

That Rush had anticipated by nearly fifty years the magnificent idea which was to result in freeing woman from the burden of incalculable suffering that had been borne by her through the ages, seems to have been recognized by no one besides Channing, save Faget and one single other.

In 1876 Dr. Gaillard Thomas both noticed and

quoted Rush's aspiration, yet he seems to have mentioned it as but an incident in the course of his generous tribute to Simpson, the more striking from appearing in the very same book wherein was made the direct implication, of course an accidental one, that the anæsthetic property of chloroform was an English and not a Scotch discovery.⁷ Dr. Thomas, in speaking of the introduction of anæsthesia into the lying-in chamber as an era in the history of obstetrics, thus declares: "It is somewhat singular that after the discovery of anæsthesia in this country, after the prediction, long before its discovery, by one of America's greatest physicians, that 'a medicine would be discovered that should suspend sensibility altogether, and leave irritability, or the power of motion, unimpaired, and thereby destroy labor pains altogether'; after it had been employed here in hundreds of cases for surgical operations, this link of the chain should have been forged by a European. Yet such was the case, and far be it from any American to begrudge him one atom of the glory which he deserves, or to endeavor to dim its lustre by 'faint praise.'"⁸

We do not find Rush's prophecy, where of all places it would have most naturally been looked for, in the bitter letters of the elder Bigelow, of Boston, in 1869 and 1870, to Sir James Simpson, nor in the minute statement, six years later, by his son,⁹ although both of these gentlemen were colleagues of Channing in the Medical School of Harvard University.

Channing seems to have been the first to discover the great suggestion made by Rush. His reference to it in 1848 was apparently perceived by none till Thomas in 1876—thence by none till Faget in 1880, who again was unaware of the allusion to it that Thomas had made. From 1880

till now there exists the same utter silence as before.

I make this statement with hesitation, for the fact seems almost incredible. Several friends, however, have assisted me during the present investigation. From the Treasurer of the Rush Monument Association, and ex-President of our own, Dr. J. M. Toner, the person of all now living probably most familiar with the life of this signer of the Declaration of Independence, I have received for examination many biographies of Rush,¹⁰ from his own very extensive collection of medical works now in the Congressional Library, and he has besides aided me in the search itself. Dr. Toner writes me as follows: "I have nowhere found allusion to the wonderful hope expressed by Dr. Rush." Dr. Paul F. Mundé, of New York, who as editor for so many years of the *American Journal of Obstetrics*, aside from his own special researches in this direction, has had reason to keep informed of all that has been published upon midwifery, reports a similar result. "I do not recollect," he says, "ever seeing the name of Dr. Rush in this connection. Certainly, he had a remarkable gift of prophecy!" Dr. James R. Chadwick, of Boston, the founder of the great medical library at Boston and a most faithful observer of all that occurs in obstetrics, writes me to the same effect. "The prophecy of Dr. Rush was new to me. I have not seen it alluded to by any writer. It is of very great interest." And Dr. Gaillard Thomas, whom alone besides Channing and Faget I had found alluding to Rush in this connection, informs me that he recollects no one who has appreciated Rush's prophecy save Channing.

You and I would, I think, have felt aggrieved had it been intimated that we were unfamiliar

with the works of Rush and of Channing, and the chapter by Thomas, but for myself I am willing to acknowledge that having eyes I saw not, neither did I understand. With all my interest in the general subject, the full significance of Rush's true position toward this question, has not struck me until now.¹¹ A student at Harvard University during the first use of sulphuric ether at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and though still an undergraduate a witness of many of the earlier operations during which ether was there employed—a friend of Dr. Charles T. Jackson, whose gold medal from the Swedish Government commemorates that, however he would have neglected of himself to communicate the discovery to the world, the idea of employing sulphuric ether as an anaesthetic was due to him—a pupil of Channing, and of Simpson, whose great Montyon gold medal from the Institute of France was given not merely for his other transcendent merits, but because by annulling the pains of childbirth, he thereby removed the primal curse, and lessened in almost equal degree both infantile and foetal mortality, and by employing chloroform as the agent, was better able than with ether to momentarily suspend sensibility, in Rush's language, without impairing uterine irritability—and having myself twenty-six years ago, in 1863, contributed by an essay upon the subject¹² that Thomas in the "Century of American Medicine," already referred to, was kind enough to call "of considerable value,"¹³ to the work these preëminent philanthropists had commenced in reference to the general employment, even in natural labor, of artificially induced anaesthesia, I have yet failed, till the present moment, to properly recognize Rush in one of the most beneficent of the many labors in which he was engaged. His work

as a sanitarian had been duly appreciated.¹⁴ He had published papers upon diet,¹⁵ climate,¹⁶ military hygiene,¹⁷ leprosy,¹⁸ hydrophobia,¹⁹ and yellow fever,²⁰ and for his great services during the epidemic of the latter in 1793, he had received unusual honors; among them, gold medals from the King of Prussia in 1805 and the Queen of Etruria in 1807, and a diamond ring from the Czar of Russia in 1811. The chief point upon which, I predict, his lasting fame will rest was, however, wholly unappreciated during his life, and now, seventy-five years after his decease, it seems to have escaped the notice of all his biographers and to have been but three times alluded to by writers upon midwifery.

Very interesting, moreover, appears the fact, to which Dr. Faget has also drawn attention, that Dr. Rush studied at the University of Edinburgh, and had access to that wealth of mediæval medical literature in its library in which Simpson so revelled, and whence he was accustomed during his researches into obstetric medicine, surgery and sanitation, to adduce so many wholly forgotten precedents. As a student myself of that ancient school, I can appreciate the influences that formed Rush's character, as observer, medical philosopher and practitioner. Born near Philadelphia in 1745, Dr. Rush took his degree at Edinburgh after two years of study there in 1763, and he proved Scotch in his subsequent methods of thought and of action, till his death in 1813.

Channing again was a pupil of Rush, to whom it was always his delight to affectionately refer. He graduated as a physician at the University of Pennsylvania in 1809. Through Rush's influence it was, undoubtedly, that he in turn resorted to the University of Edinburgh, and there drank from the fountain that had inspired his preceptor.

It was not till 1812 that he received his medical degree at Harvard. He retained through his life his affection for the Scotch capital. His relations with Simpson were intimate, and it was his delight that while Simpson was the originator of actually induced anaesthesia in midwifery, he himself was the first American to urge its general use for this end. So far as the realization and final employment of obstetrical anaesthesia are concerned, Edinburgh, through Channing its American, as well as Simpson its direct representative, well earned its palm. It is strange that the first conception of the idea should also have been by a foster child of Edinburgh, Dr. Rush. Again, Drs. Channing and Charles T. Jackson were friends and close neighbors. They had long before occupied the relations of teacher and pupil. They lived upon the same street, their houses being but a few feet apart. They were upon confidential terms of acquaintance, with similar tastes for abstruse research in very unusual directions. The only wonder now is that the one, knowing the need of suffering woman which Rush at the very commencement of his medical studies had taught him, for an artificial solace at the time of her greatest physical trouble, and the other, having discovered and bearing for so long in his mind the anaesthetic qualities of the agent which gave the first step towards the solution of the problem—that these men should not have come more closely together, and the obstetric world's great secret been earlier made known. Jackson was an accomplished chemist, and searcher for recondite applications of his science to art, and Channing a most remarkable medical antiquarian. With Channing as his co-adjutor, Jackson would not probably have been so grasping for riches and for fame as he proved

when associated with Morton, though this may have been but the premonition of the mental malady which, as in the sad case of his competitor, Horace Wells, occasioned his death—while poor Morton, jealous and all tenacious to the last, died, though more suddenly than Jackson, just as consequentially. The fearful quarrel, that involved in its scandal wellnigh the whole profession of the time, and indeed almost the good name of science itself, would perhaps thus have been avoided, and the birth of the divine idea might not have been, as it was, attended by the sundering of intimate personal ties, by deep distress and by wailing, the echoes of which have as yet scarcely ceased.

There is a strong parallel that may be drawn between the posthumous estimates of the two illustrious physicians of whom I have chiefly spoken in the present communication. It was at the close of the meeting of the American Medical Association at Washington, in May, 1870, that the news was received of Simpson's death, telegraphed by his son to your present reader within a very few moments after the event had occurred, and there are undoubtedly those now here who recollect with what regret the announcement was received by the Association, and the solemnity of the memorial meeting which was held immediately afterwards by its delegates and the medical residents of Washington. Whatever the previous feeling of individual members of the profession, in favor of ether or of chloroform as an anæsthetic, or regarding the respective claims of Boston and Edinburgh, which had improperly been made to seem antagonistic, all cavil was silenced at the touch of death. It has been so also with Dr. Rush. The rivalries of his time, which were intense, are forgotten. His own city, to which in his lifetime he was no prophet, points

to him with pride. The great professional centres of our continent vie with each other in recognizing him as the most fitting representative of early American medicine, and the chief ornament of the far reaching University whose distinguished provost is one of the orators at the present meeting of the Association. Seventy-six years have now passed since the death of Rush. It is but of late, as our lamented ex-President Gross said of our equally great McDowell, that "the chaplet that should have been worn on his brow has been placed by a grateful profession upon his tomb." "To add a fresh leaf thereto is not my privilege merely, but a filial duty. It is seldom that a man can trace back for a hundred years the influences that have shaped his own life and the little work he may have attempted to accomplish for medicine. Rush was at Edinburgh in 1768. It was entirely through his advice that thither went his pupil Channing. It was by Channing's influence that it became my own Mecca in 1854. Sincerely grateful, therefore, I am to Rush, and delighted to aid towards the high esteem in which he will henceforth be held by our obstetrical brotherhood. Should the question ever arise, from the sequences that I have endeavored to trace, whether Simpson, like Channing, had appreciated Rush's prophecy, I am sure from what I know of his character, that such could not have been the case. He ever freely gave of his knowledge to the world, concealing nothing, and he was particularly generous in his treatment of Americans, whether living or dead. Even after Channing had quoted Rush, the full meaning of the American prophecy seems to have escaped Simpson, as it has us all, else he would have been sure to have used it, sharply, when replying to the senior Bigelow, equally unaware of its existence. The latter of Simpson's answers

to the Boston sage was written, it will be remembered, from his deathbed. It was his farewell to the profession, of obstetrics and at large—happy, he said, “if it tend to fix my name and memory in their love and esteem.”²² At such a solemn hour, had he clearly understood what we now know of Rush, his would have been the hand, promptest of all, to give justice where it was due.

Just as John Bell, of Edinburgh, in 1794 urged the performance of ovariotomy, and in 1809 it was successfully accomplished by his pupil, Ephraim McDowell, of Kentucky, so in 1802 or thereabouts Dr. Rush, a graduate of Edinburgh, foresaw the possibility and need of obstetrical anodynia, and in 1847 his dream, by all forgotten, became reality at the hands of the Edinburgh professor, Dr. Simpson.

Dr. J. R. Chadwick has asked me if Rush could have been familiar with Joseph Priestley's laboratory experiments with nitrous oxide. I have no doubt that such was the case, aside from the fact that after 1794 Priestley was a neighbor of his in Pennsylvania, and most probably also a personal friend. (It is another curious coincidence that a near relative of the philosopher, Dr. William O. Priestly, of London, should have been one of Simpson's best loved and subsequently most distinguished pupils.) It is moreover possible that Rush had noticed what Davy had just then suggested, in 1800, regarding the use of nitrous oxide as a purely *surgical* anæsthetic. However this may be, the fact remains that Rush had advanced far beyond the point assumed by Davy. What he desired and foretold was not the destruction of sensibility alone, but the retention with this, in full activity, of a certain usually dormant, but in obstetrics all-important, system of nerves. Davy made no reference to allaying the pains of child-

birth. His whole thought was of *surgical* anodynia, the mere quieting of general sensibility. He evidently never dreamed of obstetrical anodynna, where nervous irritability and uterine contractility must be retained unimpaired. And so with Boston. To Boston, indisputably, belongs the honor of having first demonstrated the general practicability and safety of induced surgical anaesthesia, against which there did not exist the then seemingly grave theological objections that were so vehemently urged against its *obstetrical* employment, and which made the triumph in this direction the more difficult, and yet for this very reason the more to be commemorated.

THE RUSH MEDALS.

I have thus briefly presented Dr. Rush's claim to be honored by you, gentlemen, the teachers, cultivators, and practitioners of midwifery in the United States. Eventually, the memorial determined upon by this Association, in collecting the funds for which Medical Director Gihon, U. S. N., Dr. Geo. H. Rohé of Baltimore, ex-President Tonner of Washington, and others of your Committee, have labored so faithfully, will be erected, and mankind will be reminded of "the Sydenham of America."²³ It remains for you to influence the profession toward the hastening of that time, marking at last "the Rush renaissance."²⁴ Meanwhile, that you may contemplate the features of the man himself, and appreciate the better the parallel that has been drawn between him and the great light of British medicine, I show you reproductions, from my own collection, of the two medals that have been struck in his honor at the U. S. Mint, of which he was long the Treasurer. They have been photographed for me from the originals, greatly enlarged, by my friend, Mr.

Clarence Stanhope, of Newport, and I wish that copies could be placed in every medical, historical and public library in the country. The following are their descriptions:

1. Obverse. Bust, with queue, to left; a neck cloth under the collar. Beneath shoulder, F(urst). Inscription: BENJAMIN RUSH, M:D:, OF PHILADELPHIA.. Reverse. A river, flowing from side to side forwards; in background, the setting sun, with clouds and mountains. Large trees in foreground, to right; to the left, SYDENHAM. In front, a block of stone, on which: READ—THINK—OBSERVE. Upon this, an open book. Beneath, to right: M(oritz). FURST FEC. Exergue: A(nno). MDCCCVIII.

Silver (?), bronze, lead. 41 mm. 27.

The legend upon the reverse is from the close of his lecture, "On the Causes which have Retarded the Progress of Medicine." It is very similar to the "HEAR. READ. MARK. LEARN." upon an old medal of Christ's Hospital School, London, which is in my collection, in silver.

I have this medal of Dr. Rush both in bronze and lead. It is also at the Surgeon-General's Office at Washington, from the Lee Collection, in the former of these metals. It is very rare, and seems unknown to all numismatic writers. The die cutter, Fürst, was at the time an assistant engraver at the U. S. Mint.

2. Obverse as in preceding. *Obv. SYDENHAM*
Reverse. An altar, upon which rests an open book. In front, upon an oval panel, a bust of Aesculapius, with serpent-encircled staff. In another panel, at right, an urn. Beneath, to right: M. Furst Fec. Exergue: A(nno). MDCCCVIII.

Bronze, gilt bronze. 41 mm. 27.

Unknown to all writers upon medals. Still rarer than the preceding. It is in the Lee Collection and my own.

I have endeavored, but thus far in vain, to as-

certain the history of these medals, and have been aided in my inquiries by Dr. Wm. Pepper, of Philadelphia, through whom I have received letters from Hon. A. Loudon Snowden, long Superintendent of the U. S. Mint, and Mr. R. A. McClure, in charge of the Mint Cabinet. Col. Snowden has written, under date of March 21, 1889: "The Dr. Rush medal is not in the Mint Cabinet, and its history is obscure," and again upon the 27th, "I have taken considerable trouble to seek information from several sources, but thus far without any particular success." Mr. McClure, like Col. Snowden, was aware of the existence of but the first of the medals described above, and this he had seen at Mr. Alexander Biddle's. He reports: "Mr. Biddle did not succeed in finding any information or clue to the occasion of the striking of the Rush medal. I went to the Ridgway and Philadelphia Libraries, and the rooms of the Historical and Philosophical Societies, and looked over the file of two daily papers of 1808, the year in which the medal was struck, and found nothing." Messrs. Bailey, Banks & Biddle, prominent medallic artists of Philadelphia, have also been unable to furnish me with the slightest information. From this will be perceived the extreme rarity of the medals, and the fact that though both of them were struck at the Mint, the very existence of one of the two had passed from the knowledge of the Mint authorities. Of the first of them, there are said to be known two specimens in silver. It was remarked several years ago,²⁶ before the revival of an interest in medical numismatics, that these would be cheap at \$20 each. They would probably now bring very much more than this sum, and it is to be hoped that they have been secured for perma-

nent preservation by medical institutions, though as to this I am as yet uncertain.

The portrait bust of Dr. Rush upon the medals was undoubtedly from sittings for the purpose, since they were executed five years before his death. It will therefore be of service, in connection with the familiar painting by Sully, in giving his exact features for the monument undertaken by the Association, when at last its construction shall be commenced.

In conclusion, a brief quotation from the "Elegiac Poem on the Death of Dr. Rush," may not seem out of place :

" Unchecked by ridicule, unawed by rules,
 Fallacious dogmas, and the pride of schools;
 With all the ardor of aspiring youth,
 From fair experiment, the test of truth,
 Deep searching Rush ingenious reasonings drew,
 Bold to defend, and potent to subdue!
 Determined truth by every mean to try,
 Where others dared not gaze, 'twas his to fly;
 He rescued truth from mad opinion's maze,
 And caught from Science her inspiring rays;
 Beamed o'er the healing art a radiant light,
 Like orient phosphor o'er the mists of night."²⁶

How appropriate beyond the intention of its writer, who was but lamenting his decease, is the following, to Rush's supreme anticipation of the discovery and application of artificially induced anaesthesia to midwifery !

" Thy light, bright Science, to this sphere confined,
 Was far too little for his mighty mind!
 Which soared beyond this world, and broke away
 From darkened nature to a world of day."²⁷

(The above paper was read before the Section of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women, and by vote of the Section was referred to the Association itself, with the recommendation that it be read in general session also, as containing matter of interest to all practitioners of medicine.)

¹ The biography of this gentleman will be found in our Permanent Secretary, William B. Atkinson's work, "The Physicians and Surgeons of the United States," Philadelphia, 1878, p. 44.

² "Medical Inquiries and Observations," Third Edition, 1789-1811, iv, pp. 373, 374, 376.

³ Ibid., p. 376.

⁴ Medical Repository, vi, 1803, p. 24.

⁵ "A Treatise on Etherization in Childbirth." Boston, 1848, p. 150.

⁶ "An Inquiry into the Effects of Ardent Spirits upon the Human Body and Mind," 1785.

⁷ "A Century of American Medicine, 1776-1876," Phila., 1876, p. 80.

⁸ Ibid., p. 262.

⁹ H. J. Bigelow. "A History of the Discovery of Modern Anæsthesia." "A Century of American Medicine," Philadelphia, 1876, pp. 73-112.

¹⁰ i. Sanderson's "Biography of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence—Rush." Philadelphia, 1823, Vol. iv, pp. 249-288.

² "Report of the Committee on the Erection of a Monument to Dr. Benjamin Rush." JOURNAL OF THE AMER. MED. ASSOCIATION, 1885.

³ Dr. Thomas D. Mitchell. "The Character of Rush." Introductory Lecture at Philadelphia College of Medicine, 1848.

⁴ Dr. David Hosack. "An Introductory Discourse, etc., and a Tribute to the Memory of the late Dr. Benjamin Rush." New York, 1813.

⁵ Dr. Lettsom. "Recollections of Dr. Rush." London, 1815.

⁶ C. "A Tribute to the Memory of Dr. Rush." The Port Folio (Phila.), October, 1813.

⁷ Dr. David Ramsay. "An Eulogium upon Benjamin Rush, M.D." Phila., 1813.

⁸ "Benjamin Rush, M.D." National Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Americans, Vol. iii, Phila., 1836, pp. 52-61.

⁹ "Sketch of the Life and Character of the late Benjamin Rush, M.D., LL.D." Am. Med. and Phil. Register (New York), July, 1813, pp. 1-16.

¹⁰ "Elegiac Poem, on the Death of Dr. Benjamin Rush." Phila., 1813.

¹¹ Dr. G. K. Johnson. "Memoir of Dr. Benjamin Rush." 1827. Among other memoirs of Rush, besides the usual Cyclopædic ones that I have consulted, have been that contained in Thacher's Am. Med. Biography (Boston, 1828), and the admirable "Benjamin Rush and American Psychiatry," by Dr. C. K. Mills, of Philadelphia (Medico-Legal Journal, December, 1886).

¹¹ I had not recognized Rush's place, or Faget's either, among obstetricians, when I prepared my paper upon the medals, jetons and tokens illustrative of obstetrics and gynecology (New England Medical Monthly, November and December, 1886).

¹² "The Employment of Anæsthetics in Obstetric Medicine and Surgery." (Read before the Massachusetts Medical Society, June, 1863.) Boston Med. and Surg. Journal, October, 1863, p. 249; and re-published under the title "Eutokia; A Word to Physicians and to Women upon the Employment of Anæsthetics in childbirth." Boston, 1863, 8vo. See also, "On Chloroform Inhalation during Labor; A Reply to Dr. Robert Johns, of Dublin." Boston Med. and Surg. Journal, August, 1863; and "The Practically Absolute Safety of Profoundly Induced Anæsthesia in Childbirth, as compared with its Employment for General Surgery." Edinburgh Medical Journal, February, 1877.

¹³ Loc. cit., p. 268.

¹⁴ "The Medals, Jetons and Tokens illustrative of Sanitation." The Sanitarian, April, 1888, p. 349, etc.

¹⁵ "An Inquiry into the Effects of Ardent Spirits," etc., already quoted; "Observations upon the Habitual Use of Tobacco upon Health, Morals and Property."

¹⁶ Dr. Rush edited Cleghorn on the "Diseases of Minorca," in 1809; and shortly after, in 1810, Hillary upon the "Air and Diseases" of the same island.

¹⁷ Dr. Rush edited Pringle on "Diseases of the Army," in 1810. He had held, under appointment from the Continental Congress, the high office of Surgeon and Physician-General of the Hospitals in the Middle Department of the Army.

¹⁸ "Observations, intended to favor a supposition that the Black Color of the Negro is derived from Leprosy." Trans. Am. Phil. Society, iv, 1792.

¹⁹ "Remarks upon the Hydrophobia." Am. Med. and Phil. Register, N. S., July, 1813, p. 16.

²⁰ "Facts, intended to prove the Yellow Fever not to be Contagious." 1803; "An Account of the Bilious Yellow Fever as it appeared in Philadelphia in 1793, 1794, and each successive year till 1805."

²¹ "A Century," etc., p. 121.

²² "Modern History of Anæsthesia." (Anæsthesia, Hospitalism, etc. Edited by Sir W. G. Simpson, Bart.) Edinburgh, 1871, p. 41.

²³ The above term was first applied to Rush by his friend and biographer, Dr. Lettsom, of London. Loc. cit., London, 1815, pp. 3, 15.

²⁴ C. K. Mills. "Benjamin Rush and American Psychiatry." Medico-Legal Journal, December, 1886; Reprint. p. 2.

²⁵ American Journal of Numismatics, 1885, p. 70.

²⁶ Loc. cit., Philadelphia, 1813, p. 15.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 31.

Since the above publication, I have been informed by my friend Professor Alfred Stillé, of Philadelphia, that two of the important passages quoted from Rush were cited by him in the history of etherization contained in the five editions of his Treatise on Therapeutics and Materia Medica between 1860 and 1874. This fact renders the general silence regarding the credit due to Rush as an obstetrician, the more striking.

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